

Can the gentleman inform us as to whether or not we might see legislation on the floor to accomplish an extension of time that Governor Kean and Mr. Hamilton have requested?

Mr. DELAY. Again, if the gentleman will continue to yield, we are working through that issue. There are people that have great concerns about extending the 9-11 commission on our side of the rotunda. That is one of the problems that we are having with the highway extension bill, is they want to stick the 9-11 commission extension on to it. We feel strongly that we cannot do a unanimous consent request to deal with that issue under present circumstances.

So we are working through this. The Senate thinks that they can pass such an extension, and the House will have to deal with it if and when that occurs.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. On this issue, I have discussed briefly with the leader on our side, and I believe if such an extension, even if it were on the highway bill, that would not preclude us from entering into a unanimous consent. I have not polled everybody, so I cannot say unanimity; but there is broad support.

The families I know, as well as the commission, believe that they need more time to do the work we have asked them to do. So I thank the gentleman for that answer and for focusing on that.

The fiscal 2005 budget resolution, Mr. Leader. When might we expect the budget to be marked up in the Committee on the Budget and to be here on the floor?

□ 1400

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on the Budget has held their hearings and hopes to hold a markup in the next couple of weeks. We hope to keep the House on a schedule that allows us to complete a conference report by April 15. A lot of work is being done on both sides of the aisle. This process is, as far as we are concerned, on time for an early consideration of the budget.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, so the gentleman would expect consideration on the budget in the March 15 time frame?

Mr. DELAY. If the gentleman would yield, that is what we expect, and that is what we hope to do.

Mr. HOYER. Lastly, Mr. Leader, the Foreign Sales Corporation Act, as the gentleman knows, we have not modified that, and the European Union has said on March 1, a few days from now, Monday, they have the ability to start imposing sanctions on U.S. goods. When do you think or is there any information as to when we may consider on the floor a bill dealing with foreign sales corporations to respond to the problem that exists that will motivate the EU to impose such sanctions?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman knows, the Committee on Ways and Means has reported a bill to ad-

dress the repeal of the foreign sales credit last year. We understand the problem. While there have been a couple of deadlines for European retaliation which have come and gone, we understand the threat that now exists beginning March 1. Clearly we need to find a way to address this issue. We are coordinating with the Committee on Ways and Means, the Senate leadership and the White House to resolve the issue in a way that not only ensures our compliance with the World Trade Organization, but also increases the competitive position of all American companies in the global economy.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that answer, and I would hope that we can respond to that issue as soon as possible. I know there is bipartisan support for what was referred to as the Crane-Rangel bill. I am not sure what it is referred to now, the Rangel-Manzullo bill. I think we could proceed in a bipartisan way if that bill could be moved forward. I understand that is not the bill that the committee has reported out, but it seems to me there is bipartisan consensus on that issue, and I thank the gentleman from Texas for that information.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2004

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, March 1, 2004.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2004

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, March 1, 2004, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING AMEND- MENTS TO H.R. 3752, COMMERCIAL SPACE LAUNCH AMEND- MENTS ACT OF 2004

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet next week to grant a rule for consideration of H.R. 3752, Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act of 2004 which may require that amendments be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to their consideration on the floor.

The Committee on Science ordered the bill reported on February 4, 2004, without amendment and is expected to file its report with the House on Monday, March 1, 2004. Members should draft their amendments to the text of the bill as introduced on February 3, 2004, by the Committee on Science.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are drafted in the most appropriate format. Members are also advised to check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

RESIGNATION AS CHAIRMAN AND ELECTION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, February 11, 2004.
Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Please accept this letter as my resignation as Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, effective at midnight on February 16, 2004.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

W.J. "BILLY" TAUZIN,
Chairman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 539) and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 539

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and that he hereby is, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Mr. Barton of Texas, Chairman.

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and that he hereby is, ranked as follows on the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Mr. Tauzin, after Mr. Barton of Texas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.